

March 9, 2012

Honorable Michael Huerta
Acting Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Administrator Huerta:

I was shocked to learn this morning that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has decided to cancel the solicitation for a new FAA Executive Management Training and Conference Center. I was particularly astonished at this news given that, on October 12, 2011, the FAA informed the city of Kansas City that its submission to host the Executive Management Training and Conference Center would be accepted. All interested stakeholders have been working with the FAA in good faith since. As you know, you and I also personally spoke late last year about the importance of this project to Kansas City.

I have serious questions about the process the FAA has followed in arriving at the decision to rescind the solicitation and, thereby, its plans to move the management training facility to Kansas City. Such an about-face by the FAA, after significant investment of taxpayer resources in carrying out the solicitation, is deeply troubling. As you know, local stakeholders in Kansas City, in reliance on information provided to them by the FAA, have also already invested substantial sums of money in this project. I believe both American taxpayers and the interested parties in Kansas City deserve detailed, straightforward answers as to why the FAA would waste so much time and money by abruptly cancelling this project, for which, importantly, a requirement remains.

To that end, please provide detailed answers to my questions below no later than March 16, 2012.

1. For what specific reason or reasons did the FAA decide to cancel this solicitation after an apparent offeror had been chosen? In your answer, please provide detailed information about any changed circumstances since Kansas City was informed that they were the successful offeror on October 12, 2011.
2. How much, in total, has the FAA invested in this solicitation since 2009? In addition to the dollar value of FAA expenditures in support of carrying out this solicitation, please also include the amount of time in personnel investment, as well as the number of FAA employees working on this solicitation in your answer.

3. Finally, since the FAA has now cancelled the solicitation, will the FAA reimburse local stakeholders in Kansas City for any investment they made after they were informed that they were the successful offeror on the project? If not, why not?

Thank you for the expedited consideration of my concerns. I stand ready to work with you and others at the FAA to reverse what appears a clearly foolhardy decision to rescind this solicitation. The commitment made to Kansas City should be honored.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Claire McCaskill". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Claire" and last name "McCaskill" clearly distinguishable.

Claire McCaskill
United States Senator